MARVEL
28
AVX
VS
THE AVENGERS
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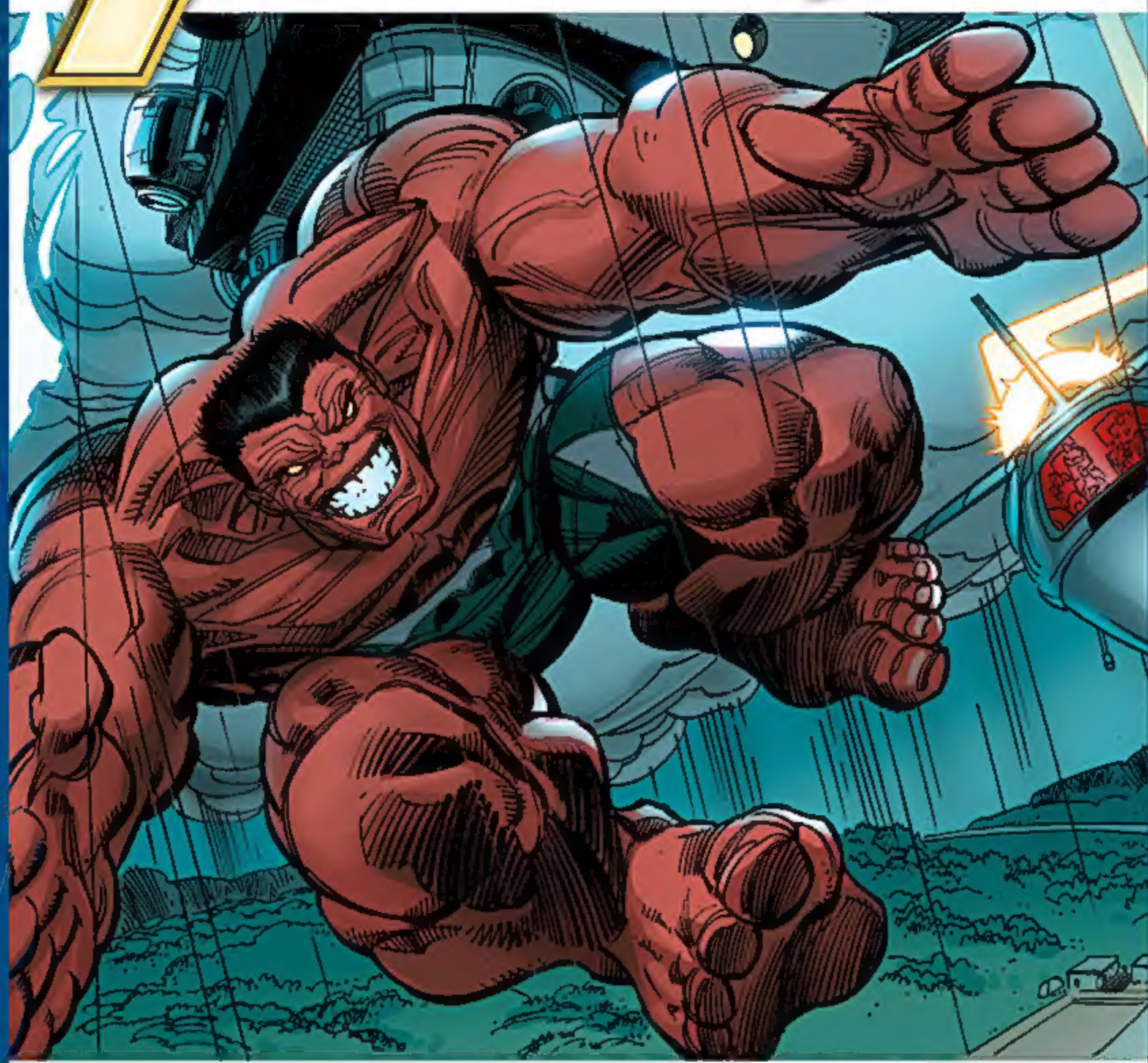
EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES, UNITED AGAINST A COMMON THREAT! ON THAT DAY THE AVENGERS WERE BORN, TO FIGHT FOES THAT NO SINGLE HERO COULD WITHSTAND!

THE AVENGERS

RED HULK

IRON MAN

HAWKEYE



CAPTAIN AMERICA

BLACK PANTHER

PREVIOUSLY:

THE PHOENIX FORCE HAS ARRIVED, IMBUING FIVE OF THE MOST ICONIC MUTANTS--CYCLOPS, EMMA FROST, NAMOR, COLOSSUS AND MAGIK--WITH WORLD-ALTERING POWERS.

THE AVENGERS WISH TO NEUTRALIZE THE COSMIC FORCE, BUT ARE PUT IN A PRECARIOUS SITUATION AS THE MUTANTS HAVE THUS FAR BEEN USING THEIR POWERS FOR HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS ACROSS THE GLOBE. AS EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES SEEM OVERPOWERED AND OUTMANEUVERED IN EVERY HEAD-TO-HEAD CONFRONTATION, SOME SEE A SHIFT IN TACTICS AS THE ONLY POSSIBLE SOLUTION.

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THE AVENGERS VERSUS THE X-MEN.

THIS ISN'T WHAT I AM.

WHAT AM I DOING HERE?

I KEEP TRYING TO GO OVER THE EVENTS IN MY HEAD--EVERYTHING SINCE THE PHOENIX TOUCHED THE EARTH AND THE PHOENIX AND THE X-MEN BECAME ONE.

SINCE CAPTAIN AMERICA DECLARED WAR ON THEM BECAUSE THEY LEFT HIM NO CHOICE.

BUT I CAN'T WRAP MY HEAD AROUND IT BECAUSE ALL I DO IS FIGHT. THE AVENGERS KEEP THROWING ME INTO BATTLE--ONE AFTER THE NEXT.

WHY? BECAUSE I AM A *HULK*. THAT IS HOW THEY SEE ME.

A BLUNT INSTRUMENT. A PIT BULL.

I GET THAT. I *AM* A HULK. WHICH IS STILL ONE OF GOD'S TOP TEN CRUELEST JOKES OF ALL TIME.

I SPENT THE ENTIRETY OF MY LIFE CHASING THE ORIGINAL GREEN HULK, BRUCE BANNER, ACROSS EVERY DESERT IN THIS COUNTRY.

LOOKING FOR A WAY TO END THE HULK AND NOW I *AM* A HULK.

BUT CAPTAIN AMERICA KNOWS WHO I REALLY AM. HE KNOWS BEFORE *THIS* I WAS THUNDERBOLT ROSS, A DECORATED GENERAL IN THE MOST MAGNIFICENT ARMY IN THE WORLD.

I WAS--I *AM* A WAR HERO. NOTHING CAN TAKE THAT AWAY FROM ME.

I HAVE MORE MEDALS THAN I COULD EVER WEAR ON MY UNIFORM.

AND CAPTAIN AMERICA WANTS ME HERE.

BUT WHY ME? WHY NOW? WHY AM I HERE?

CIRCUMSTANCE? NO.

THE REAL QUESTION IS: WHAT DO I HAVE TO BRING TO THE TABLE OTHER THAN THE HULK?

MILITARY EXPERIENCE.

I HAVE AS MUCH MILITARY EXPERIENCE AS CAPTAIN AMERICA.

I MIGHT HAVE MORE.

HE *IS* A CAPTAIN. I'M A GENERAL.

SO I PROBABLY HAVE AS MUCH MILITARY EXPERIENCE AS ANYONE WHO'S EVER BEEN AN AVENGER.

UNLESS YOU COUNT WAR CRIMES... AND I DON'T.

OR WAR PROFITEERING... AND I DON'T.

BUT WHETHER OR NOT THESE PEOPLE WOULD FOLLOW *ME* INTO BATTLE AT THIS POINT IN MY AVENGERS CAREER I DO NOT KNOW. PROBABLY NOT.

NOT WITHOUT CAPTAIN AMERICA STANDING THERE DEMANDING THEY RESPECT ME.

BUT I SEE IT IN THEIR EYES. THEY HAVE NO IDEA WHO I AM OR WHY I'M HERE OR WHY CAPTAIN AMERICA PUTS VALUE IN MY OPINION OVER THEIRS.

THEY DO NOT GET IT. THIS IS WAR.

I ADVISE CAPTAIN AMERICA IN ANY WAY HE NEEDS. BUT I LOOK AT THE CAPTAIN AND I FEEL *THAT'S* NOT REALLY THE REASON I'M HERE EITHER, FOR ALL OF CAPTAIN AMERICA'S IMPRESSIVE QUALITIES AS A SOLDIER, THERE ARE THINGS I WOULD DO THAT HE NEVER WOULD.

HE LOOKS AT ME AND I SEE THAT LOOK IN HIS EYES.

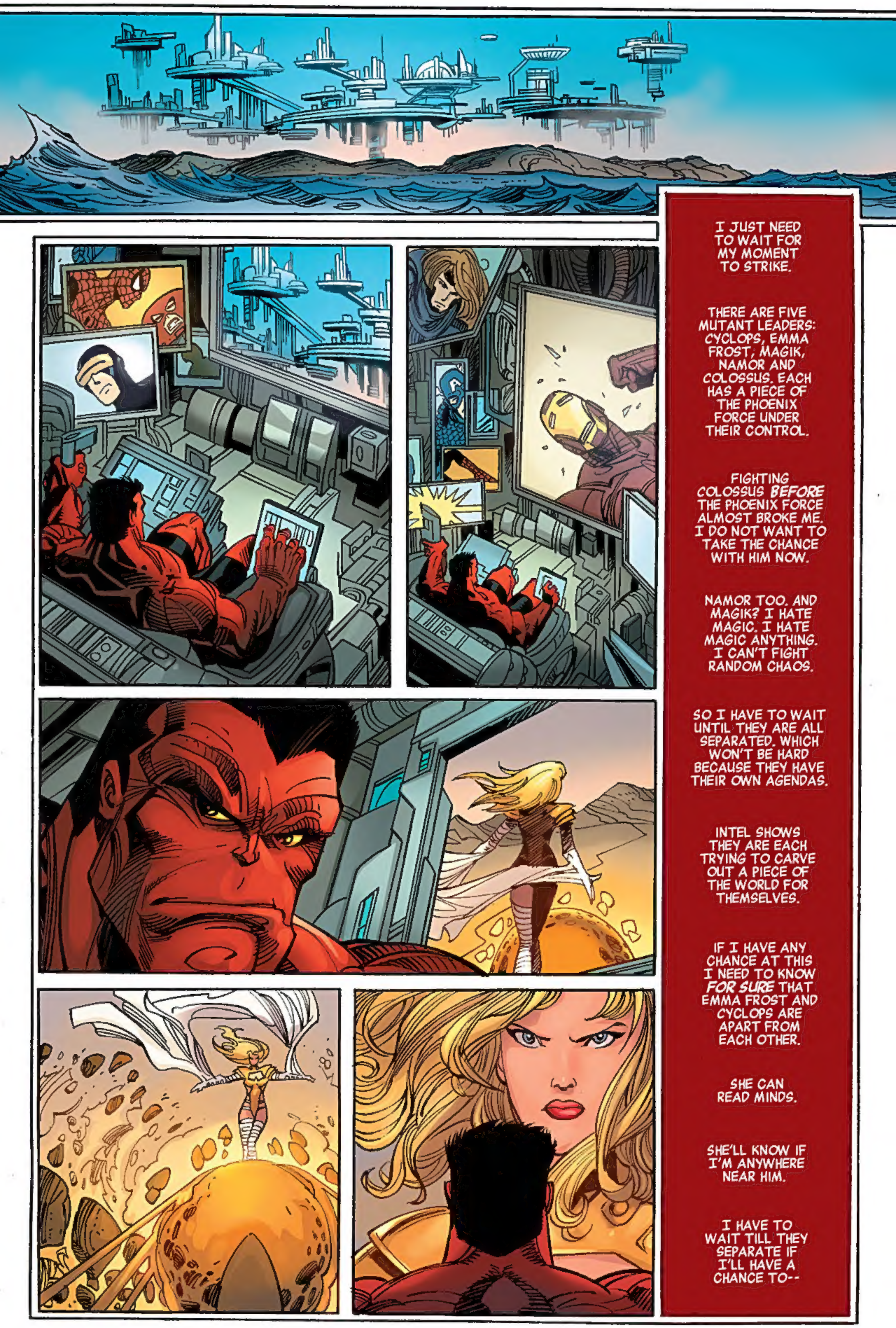
HE *NEEDS* SOMETHING FROM ME. HE NEEDS ME TO TAKE IT SOMEWHERE HE CAN'T GO...

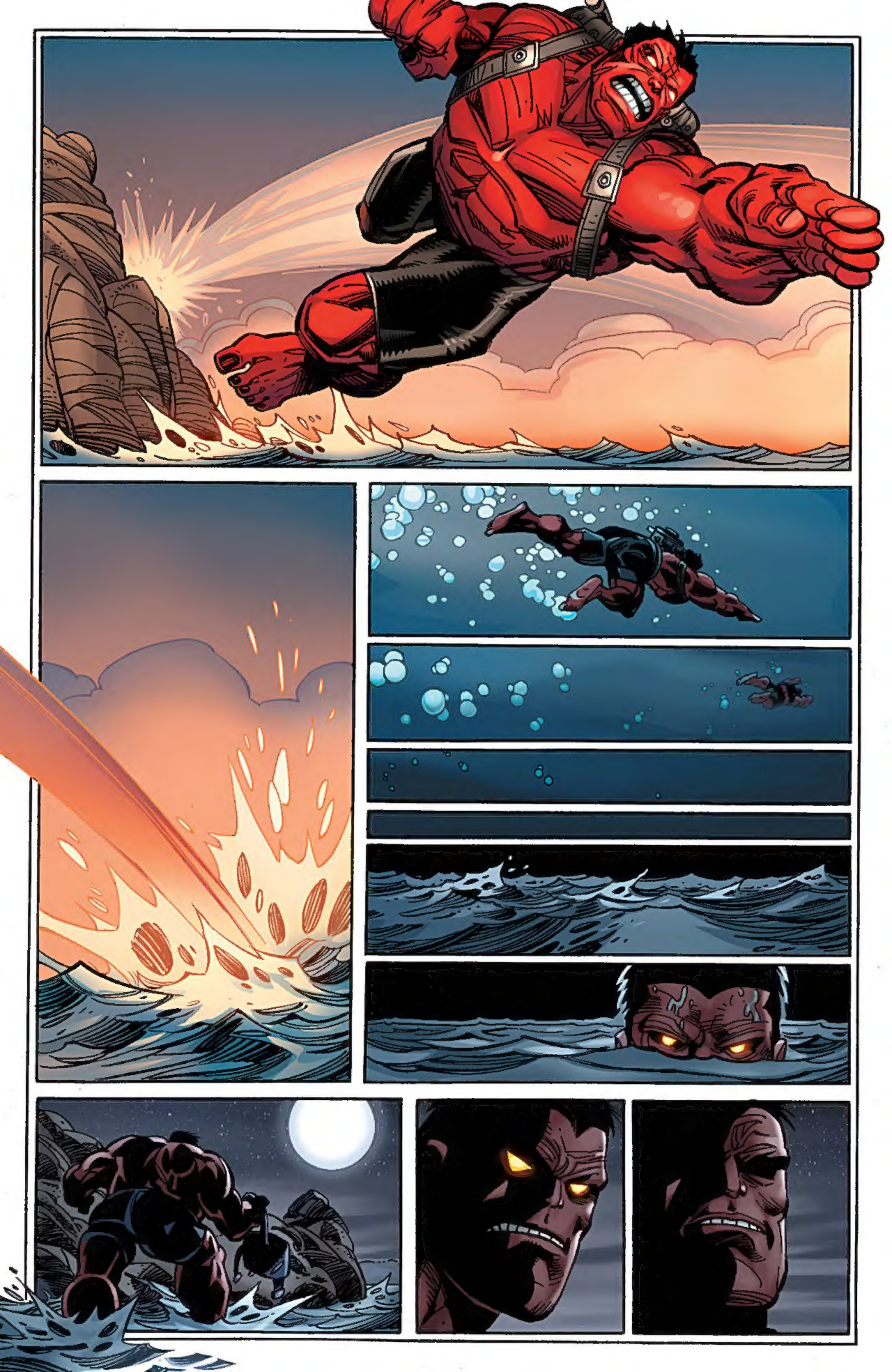
THAT'S IT, THEN, ISN'T IT?

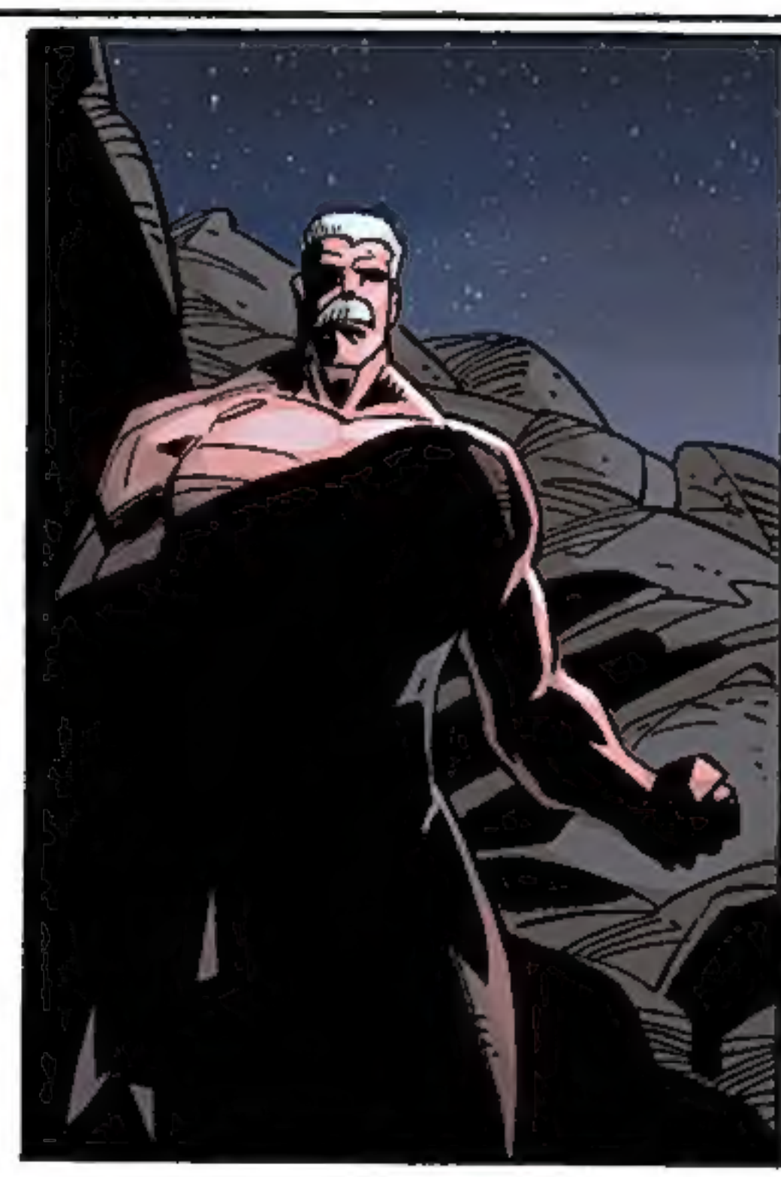
THEN I KNOW *EXACTLY* WHAT I HAVE TO DO.

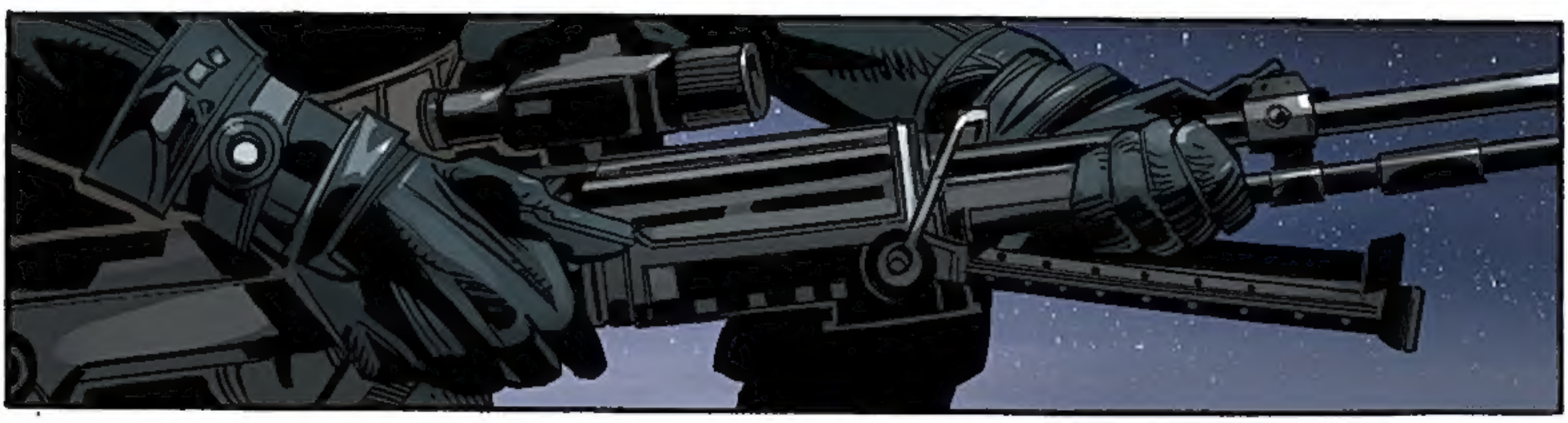
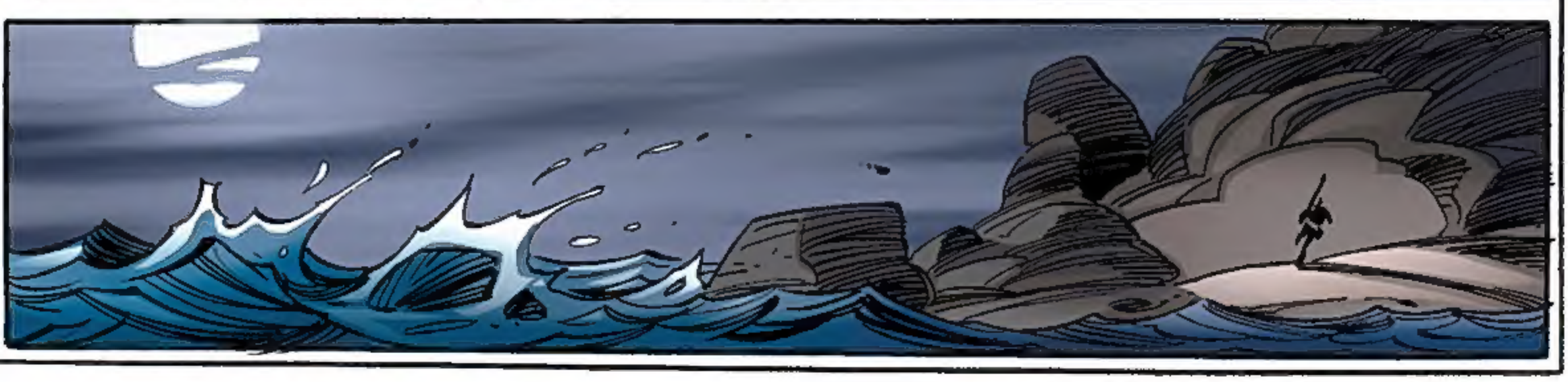
I HAVE TO GO WHERE CAPTAIN AMERICA CAN'T AND WHERE WOLVERINE WON'T...

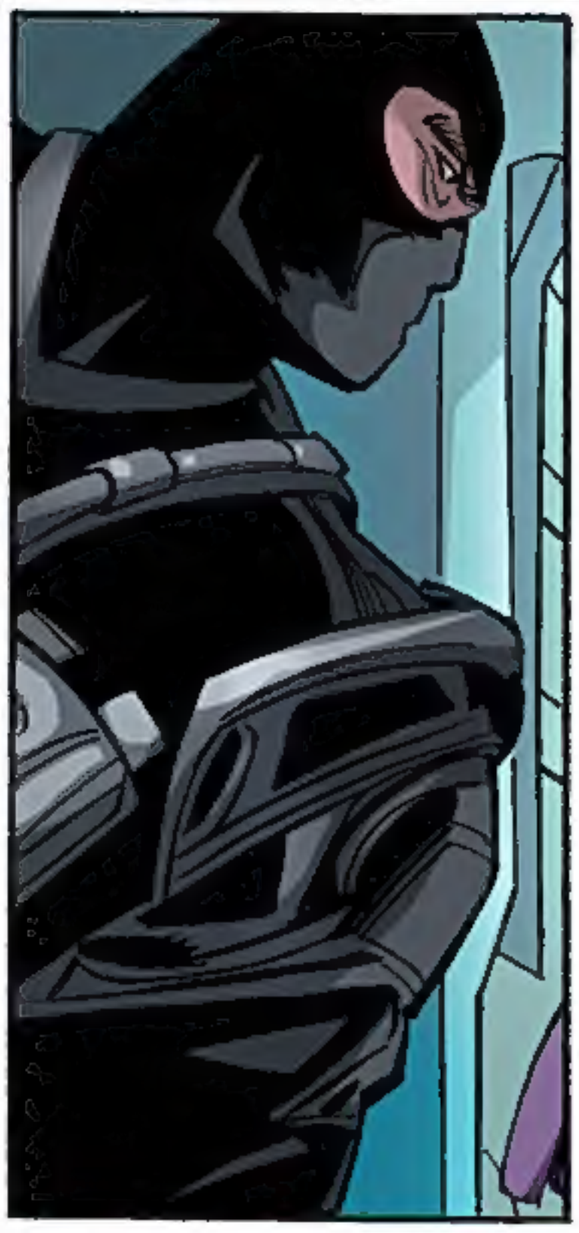
I HAVE TO ASSASSINATE THE MUTANT LEADER... CYCLOPS.

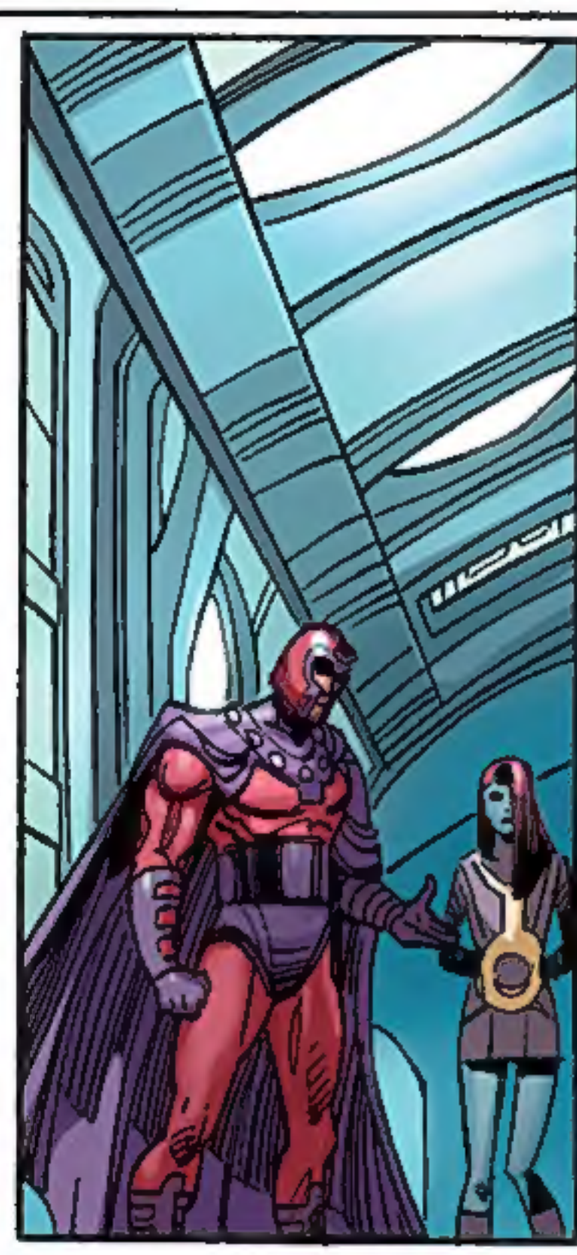

I JUST NEED TO WAIT FOR MY MOMENT TO STRIKE.
THERE ARE FIVE MUTANT LEADERS: CYCLOPS, EMMA FROST, MAGIK, NAMOR AND COLOSSUS. EACH HAS A PIECE OF THE PHOENIX FORCE UNDER THEIR CONTROL.
FIGHTING COLOSSUS BEFORE THE PHOENIX FORCE ALMOST BROKE ME. I DO NOT WANT TO TAKE THE CHANCE WITH HIM NOW.
NAMOR TOO. AND MAGIK? I HATE MAGIC. I HATE MAGIC ANYTHING. I CAN'T FIGHT RANDOM CHAOS.
SO I HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THEY ARE ALL SEPARATED. WHICH WON'T BE HARD BECAUSE THEY HAVE THEIR OWN AGENDAS.
INTEL SHOWS THEY ARE EACH TRYING TO CARVE OUT A PIECE OF THE WORLD FOR THEMSELVES.
IF I HAVE ANY CHANCE AT THIS I NEED TO KNOW FOR SURE THAT EMMA FROST AND CYCLOPS ARE APART FROM EACH OTHER.
SHE CAN READ MINDS.
SHE'LL KNOW IF I'M ANYWHERE NEAR HIM.
I HAVE TO WAIT TILL THEY SEPARATE IF I'LL HAVE A CHANCE TO--









MAGNETO.

THE MUTANT MASTER OF MAGNETISM.

I WAS PREPARED.

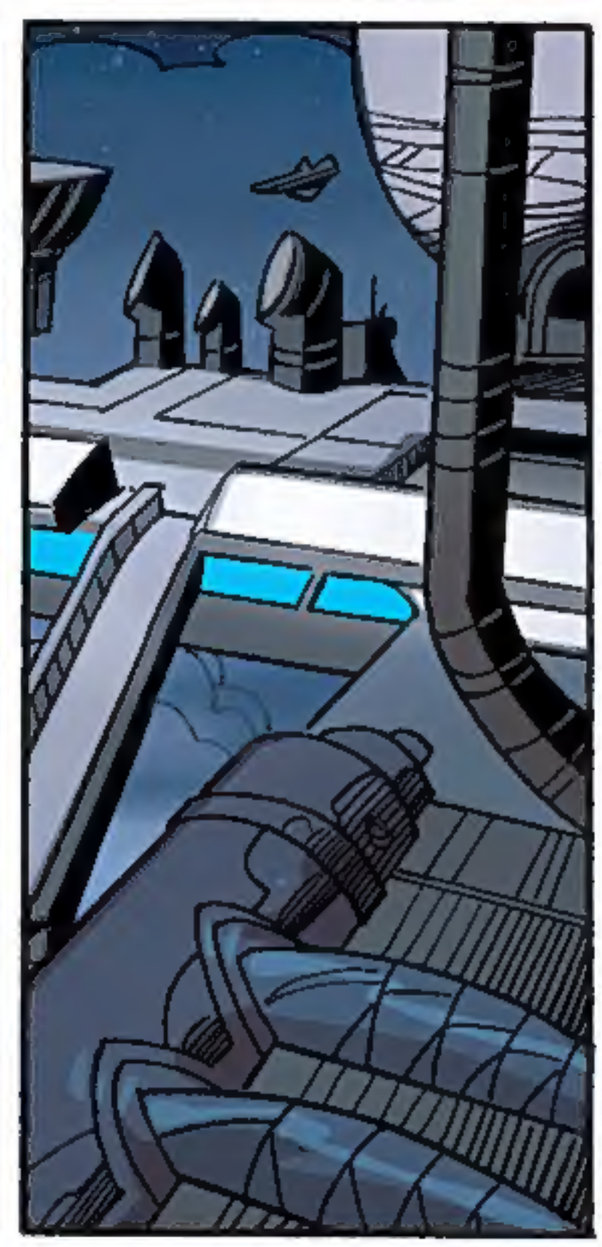
NOTHING METAL ON ME.

NOT MY KNIFE MADE OF BONE OR MY GUN MADE OF FIBERGLASS.

THE FILES SAID IF HE WAS ON THE ISLAND, AND THAT EVEN IF HE NEVER SAW ME HE COULD SENSE THE METAL.

HE WOULD FEEL IT.

HE WOULD KILL ME WITH MY OWN WEAPONS BEFORE I KNEW WHAT HAPPENED.



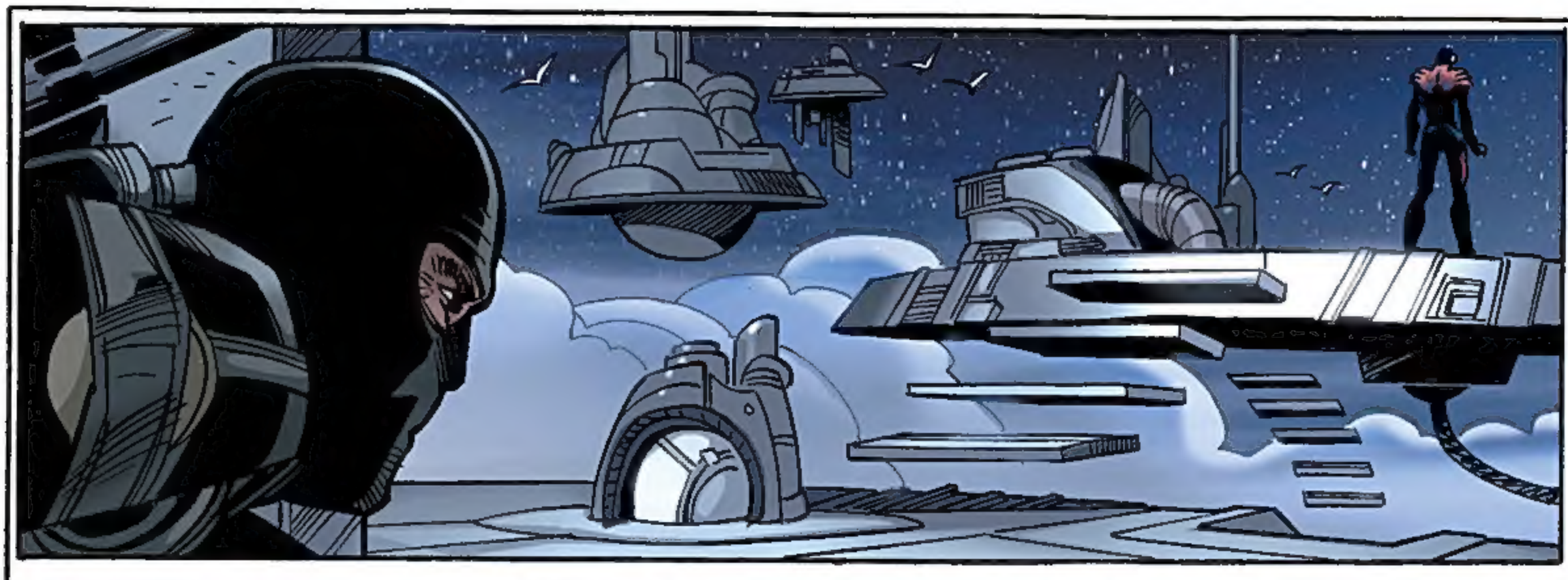
THIS IS THE MOST DANGEROUS GAME.

THIS IS A MINE FIELD.

EVERYWHERE I GO: MUTANTS.

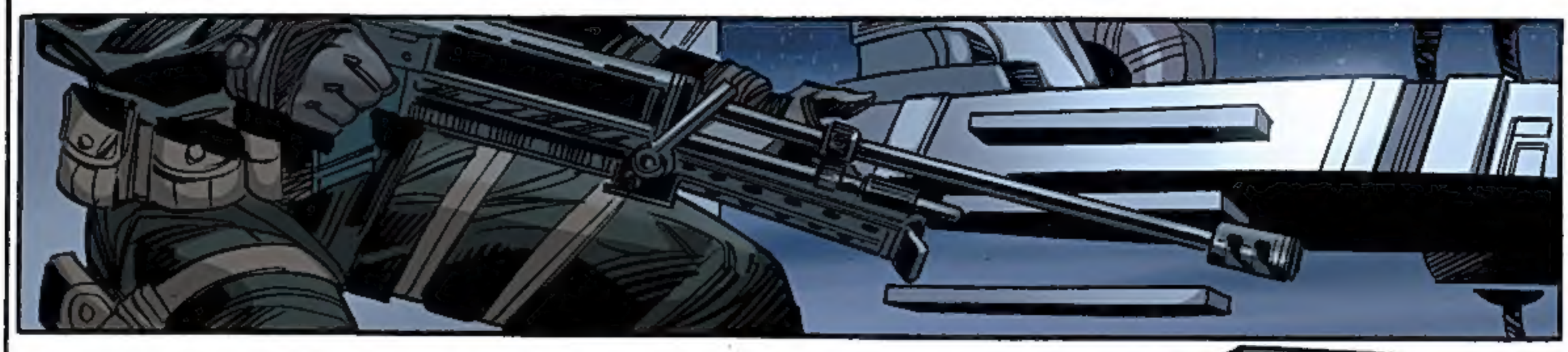
EACH WITH ITS OWN POWER. EACH WITH ITS OWN SPECIALTY.

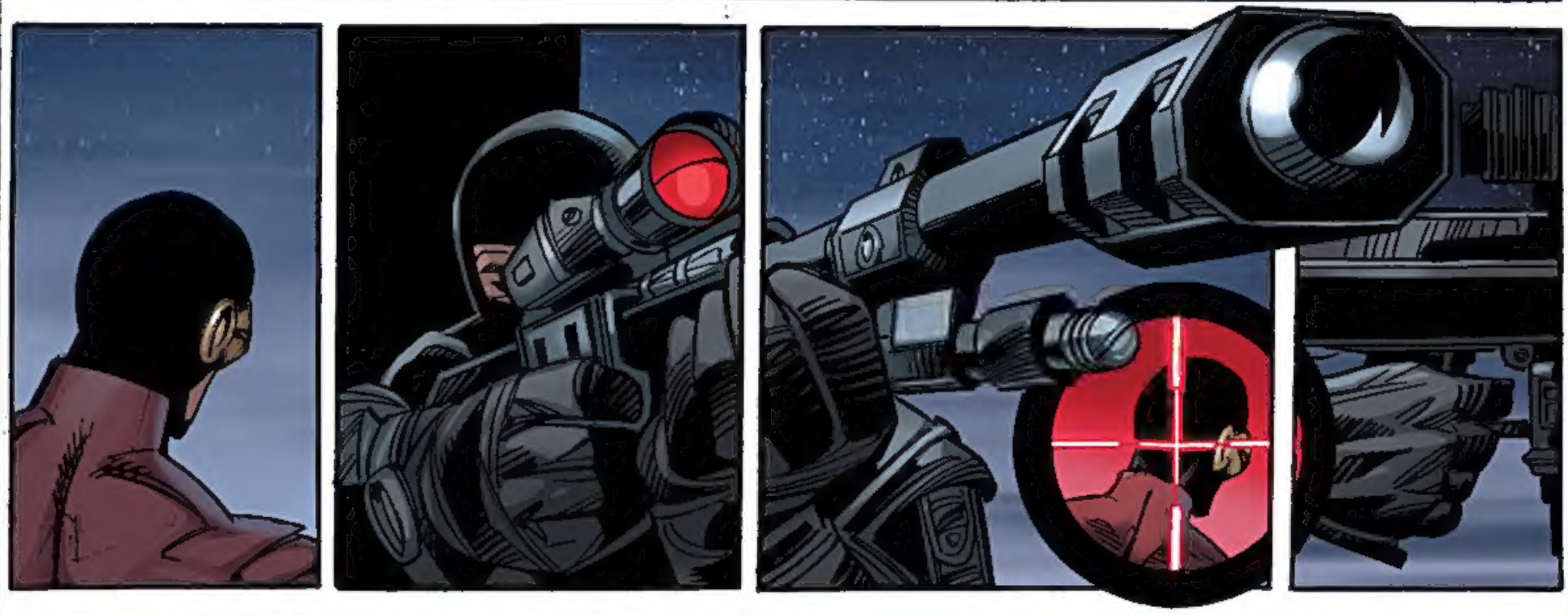
EVERY SECOND I SPEND ON UTOPIA I RISK DETECTION.

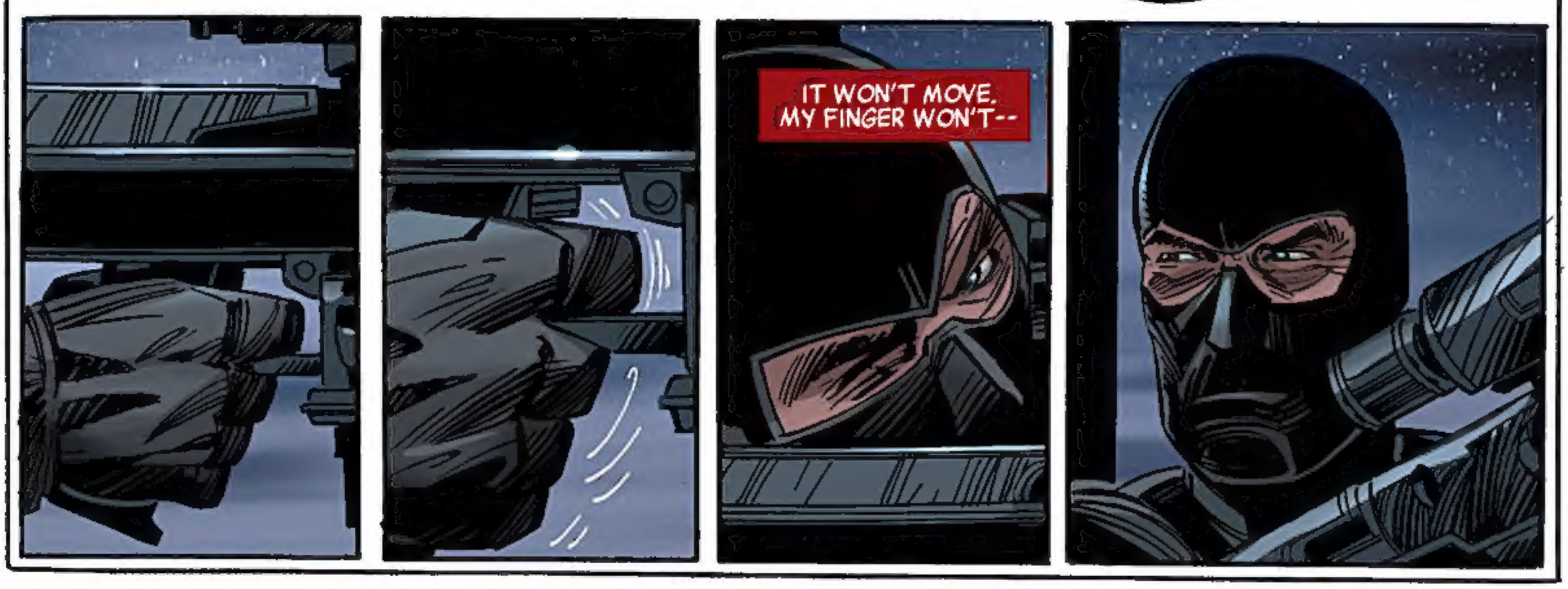


THERE HE IS: CYCLOPS, LEADER OF THE X-MEN, IN MY SIGHTS. I TAKE THIS DECISION VERY SERIOUSLY.

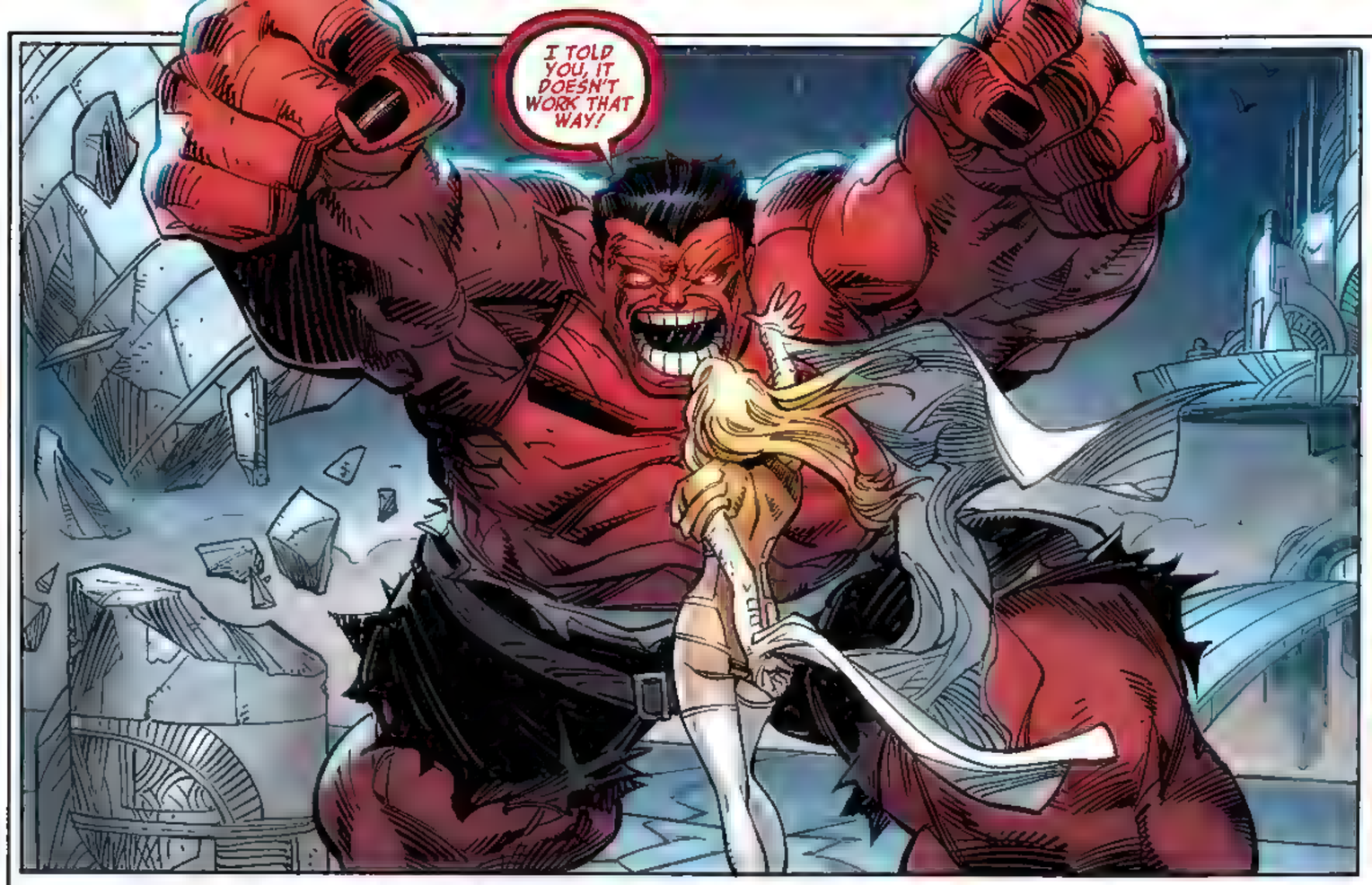
THIS IS A MAN'S LIFE. I HAVE TO WEIGH THE GREATER GOOD. I KNOW THIS MOMENT WILL HAUNT ME FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE. LIKE ALL THE OTHERS. I HAVE TO IMAGINE THE LIVES SAVED BY THIS ONE SACRIFICE. I KNOW THIS MAN WAS A HERO. I KNOW HE HAS SACRIFICED HIS LIFE FOR THE ENTIRE PLANET, OVER AND OVER. I KNOW HE HAS LOVED. I KNOW HE HAS LOST. I KNOW HE IS A COMPLICATED MAN IN A COMPLICATED TIME. BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT HE *DID*. IT MATTERS WHAT HE IS DOING ***NOW***. HE IS PUTTING THE ENTIRE WORLD IN GRAVE DANGER. HE WON'T STOP SO I HAVE TO STOP HIM. I HAVE TO PUT HIM DOWN SO THE REST OF US CAN SEE TOMORROW.

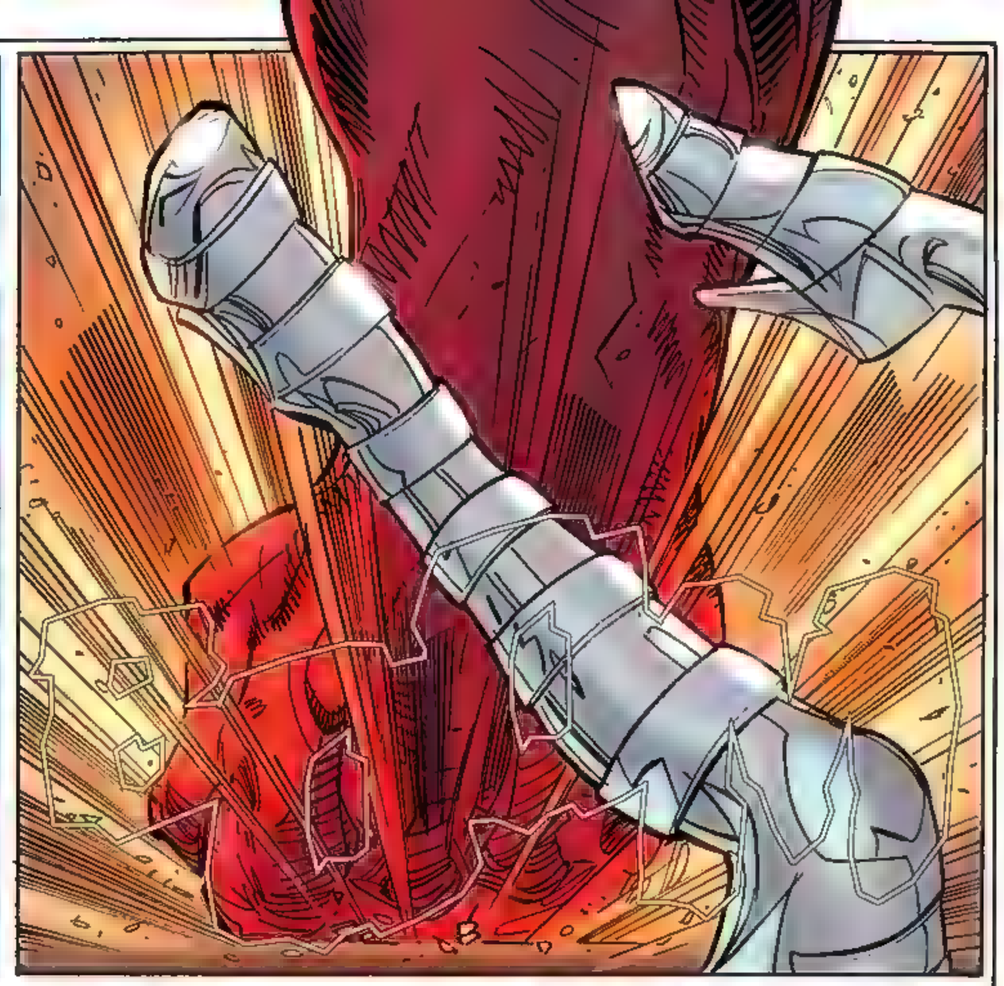


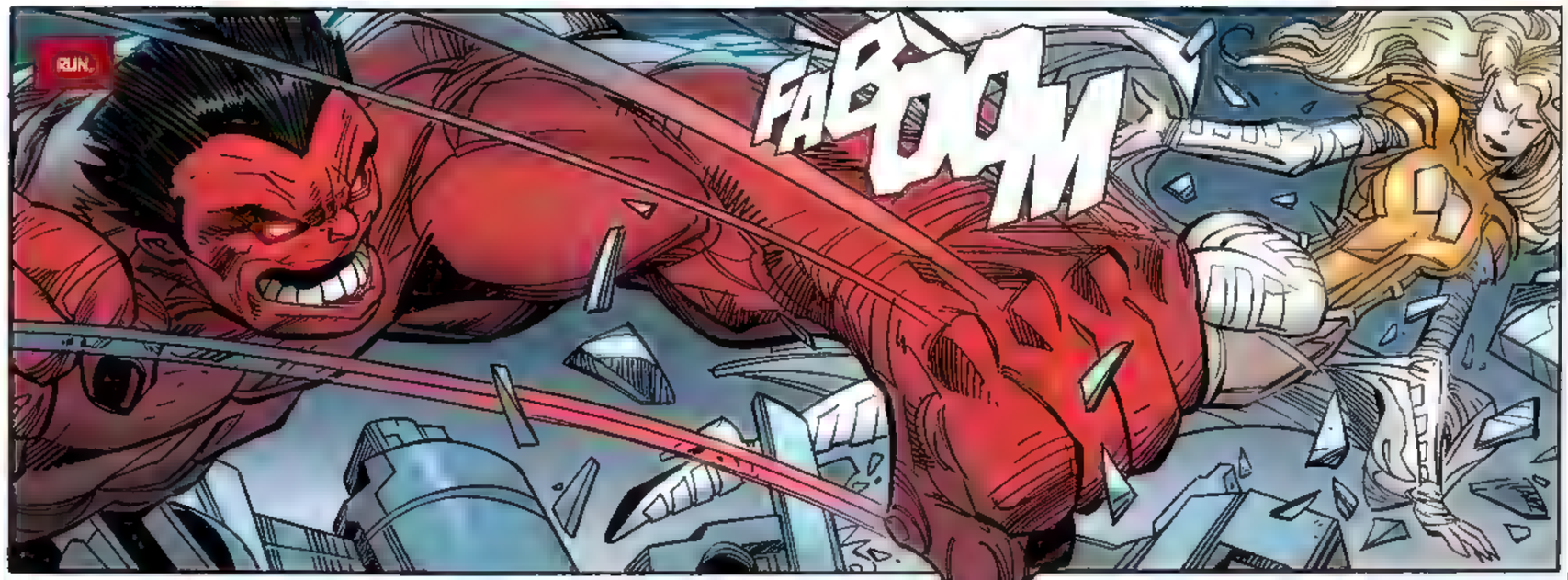




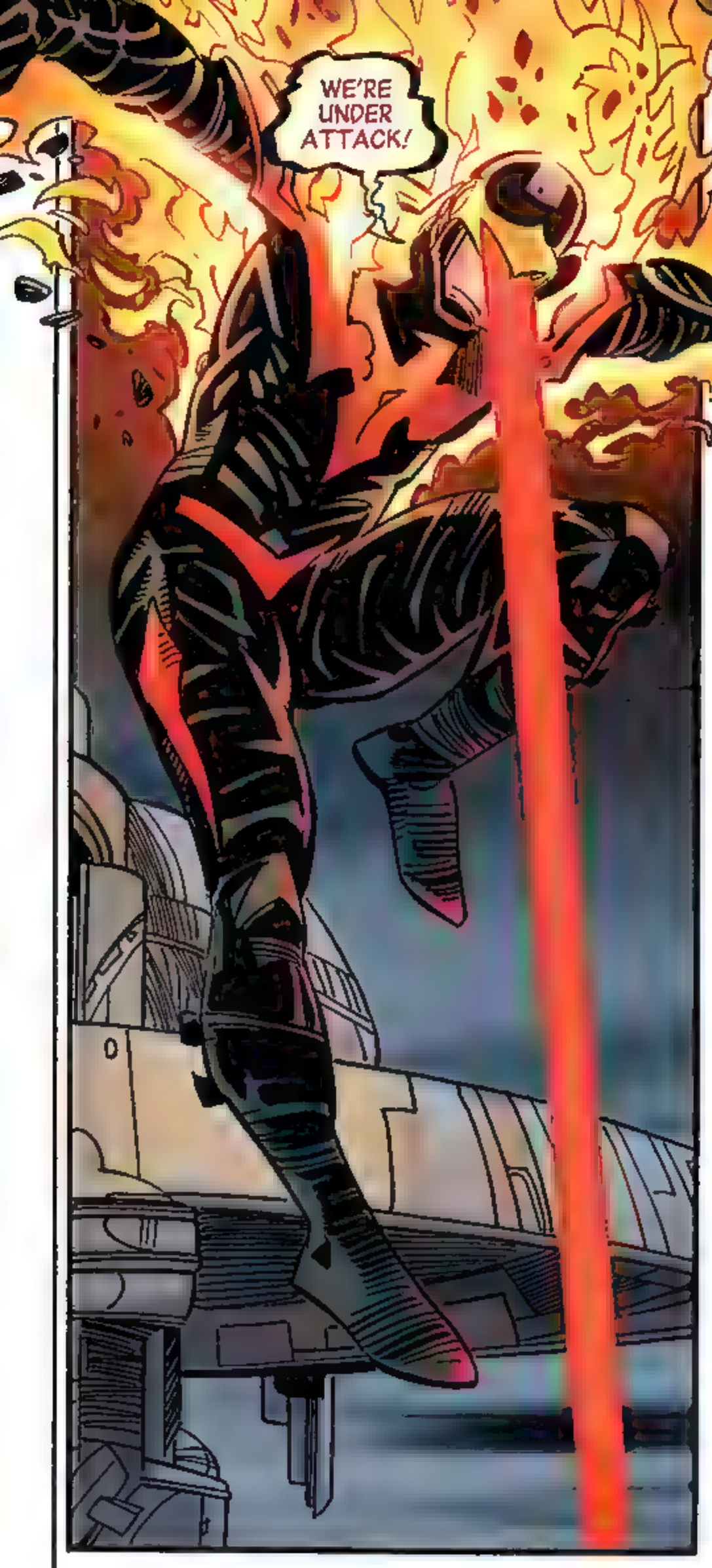
WHAT IS THIS NOW?
FROST. IN MY HEAD. CONTROLLING ME BEFORE I CAN--
I SHOULD MAKE YOU EAT THAT GUN.
TAKE OFF YOUR MASK.
I SHOULD HAVE HUNTED AND KILLED HER FIRST.
MMM YOUR M ND IS A NOT A PRETTY PLACE, GENERAL.
I'VE SEEN A LOT AND EVEN I FIND MYSELF QUITE UNNERVED BY THE SEWER YOU CALL AN EXISTENCE
I GUESS IT'S OUR FAULT.
WE MADE CAPTAIN AMERICA DESPERATE ENOUGH TO TRY SOMETHING LIKE THIS.
BUT NO_YOU CAME ALL BY YOURSELF.
KILL THE MUTANT AND THE WORLD WILL LOVE AND FORGIVE YOU?
ANOTHER IN THE LONG LIST OF BAD DECISIONS THAT BROUGHT YOU RIGHT HERE. RIGHT NOW.
YOU ARE NOT THE--
I DIDN'T TELL YOU YOU COULD TALK
PICK UP THE KNIFE.
YOU CAN'T MAKE ME--I CAN'T...KILL MYSELF.
SURE YOU CAN.
CAN'T.
YOU JUST HAVEN'T TRIED HARD ENOUGH.
YOU HULKS-- YOU NEVER COME TO A GOOD MENTALIST, LIKE MYSELF, AND JUST ASK US TO SWITCH OFF YOUR HULK VALVE.
IT DOESN'T...
QUITE...
WORK THAT WAY.
YOU BROUGHT THIS ON YOURSELF IN SO MANY WAYS.
IN YOUR HEART, YOU KNOW YOU WANTED IT TO END THIS WAY.
YOU'RE NOT LISTENING TO ME, IT DOESN'T--
DOESN'T--!!
STOP.
I COMMAND YOU TO--

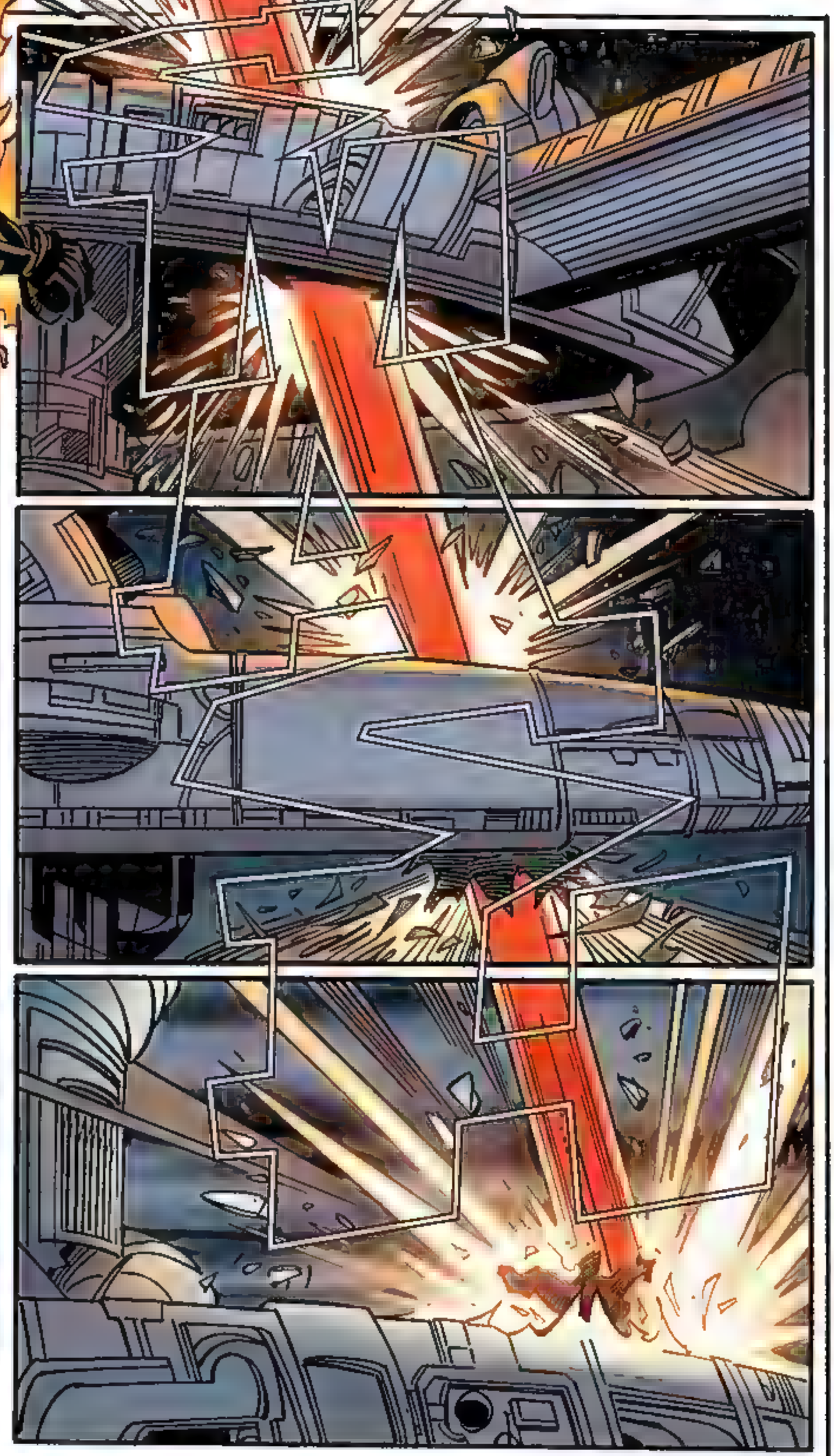

I TOLD YOU, IT DOESN'T WORK THAT WAY!




RUN.
FA BOOM

AAAAGGRRHH!


WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!



RUN.

AARRGGHH!

WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?

CLANG CLANG

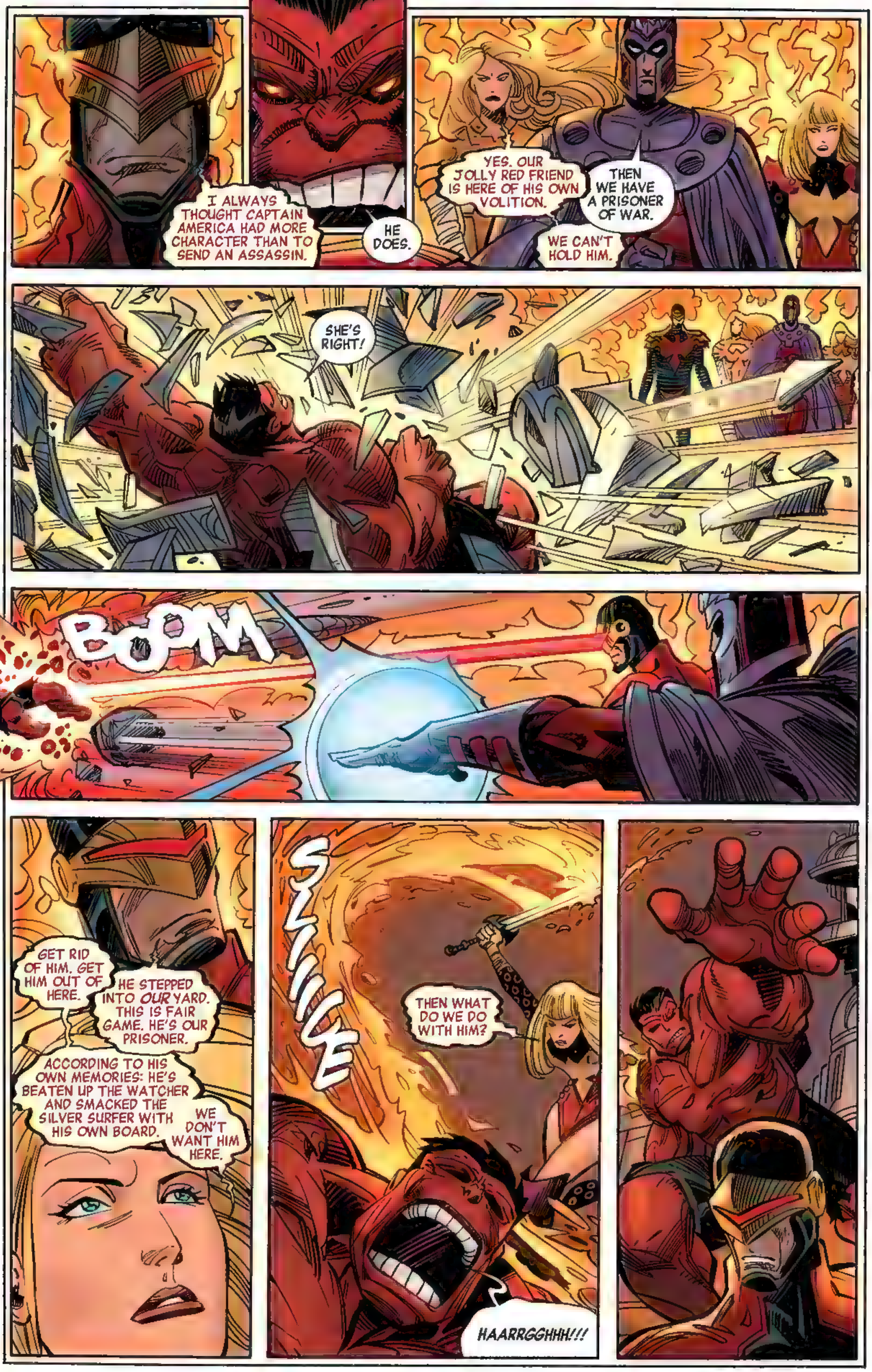
RRR!

CLANG CLANG

FSSAAAMMM

RUN.

SO YOU'VE COME TO DIE FOR KING AND COUNTRY?

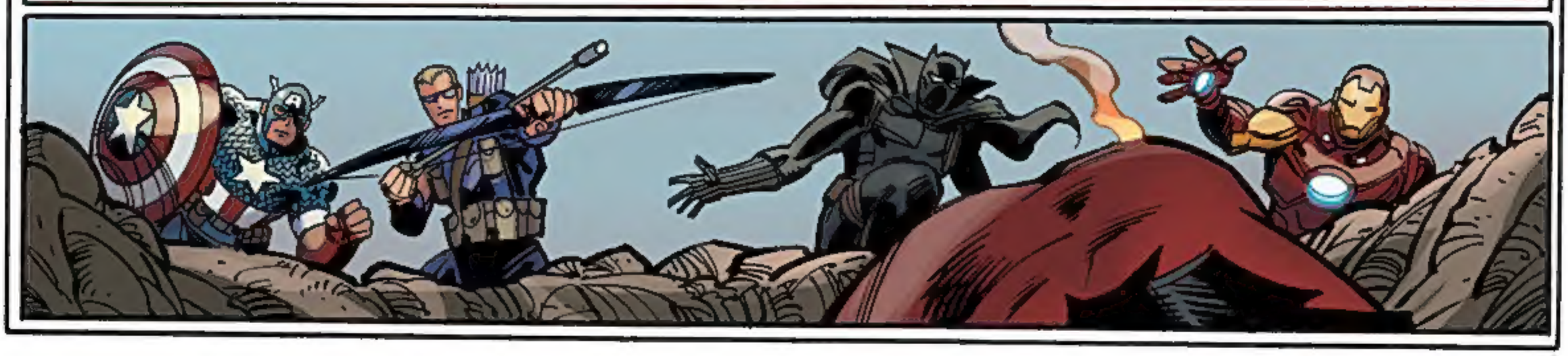

I ALWAYS THOUGHT CAPTAIN AMERICA HAD MORE CHARACTER THAN TO SEND AN ASSASSIN.
HE DOES.
YES. OUR JOLLY RED FRIEND IS HERE OF HIS OWN VOLITION.
THEN WE HAVE A PRISONER OF WAR.
WE CAN'T HOLD HIM.
SHE'S RIGHT!
BOOM
GET RID OF HIM. GET HIM OUT OF HERE.
HE STEPPED INTO OUR YARD. THIS IS FAIR GAME. HE'S OUR PRISONER.
ACCORDING TO HIS OWN MEMORIES: HE'S BEATEN UP THE WATCHER AND SMACKED THE SILVER SURFER WITH HIS OWN BOARD.
WE DON'T WANT HIM HERE.
SLICE
THEN WHAT DO WE DO WITH HIM?
HAARRGGHHH!!!

BOOM
HYYAARRGGHH!!!
WHAM
CHUCK
NYAAAA!!!
PUT HIM DOWN NOW.
NO.
HOLD HIM FOR ME.
I WANT TO SEND HIM HOME WITH A MESSAGE.

WHEN I WAS IN BOOT CAMP, OUR LIEUTENANT SAID WORDS TO US THAT I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHEN I HEARD THEM BUT NOW ARE WORDS I LIVE BY...

HE SAID: "FIGHTING IS THE MOST PRIMAL FORM OF HUMAN COMMUNICATION. IF YOU HAVE TO FIGHT, THAT MEANS THERE IS NO OTHER RECOURSE."

SO IF YOU'RE READY TO FIGHT, YOU'D BETTER BE READY TO KILL.



WHAT HAPPENED? WHAT DID YOU DO?
I DON'T NEED HELP.
DO YOU NEED A DOCTOR?
BECAUSE IF YOU'RE NOT GOING TO KILL, THEN YOU'RE GOING TO LOSE.
IT'LL HEAL.
SCOTT SUMMERS JUST LOST THIS WAR.

A vs X

NEXT: AVENGERS AMBUSH!

LAST MAN STANDING!

GUARDIANS ASSEMBLE!

THE ILLUMINATI UNITE!

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ZONE